REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 41-43, 47, 48 and 52 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been rejected under section 112.

Claims 1-8, 12-16, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Numata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,625,384) in view of Miura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,988,782).

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Section 112 rejections.

The Examiner incorrectly notes that "the second nozzle" in line 9 has an insufficient antecedent basis. In fact, the antecedent basis can be found in line 4.

Rejection of claims 1-8, 12-16 and 52 based on Numata and Miura

As discussed in the response filed on October 28, 2004, the combined teachings of Numata and Miura do not suggest the combination of features recited in claim 1 and 52 including the features discussed above. The Applicants reiterate that, in Miura, the printing is controlled based on a comparison of an elapsed time T1 with a predetermine time period T0. The elapsed time T1 is a period of time from the previous stirring to the present time (considered as sedimentation-state). The predetermined time period T0 is determined to be a period in which sedimentation of ink will not cause significant problem. It is also substantially determined depending upon characteristics of the ink. Therefore the Examiner incorrectly alleges that T0 is a sedimentation property.

In Miura the inks are characterized as "reactive dye ink" and "disperse dye ink. In Miura et al, the reactive dye ink and the disperse dye ink are not used at the same time. **In other words, the reactive dye ink and the disperse dye ink are not in the same liquid container.** The

Applicants respectfully submit that, for the purpose of this analysis, the reactive dye ink is assumed to be an equivalent to the "liquid", and the disperse dye ink is assumed to be an equivalent of the "second liquid that is different from the liquid". **The Applicants further submit that, in Miura et al, a (first) liquid such as a reactive dye ink and a second liquid such as a disperse dye ink are not used at the same time**. That is, in Miura et al, the liquid such as a reactive dye ink and the second liquid such as a disperse dye ink are not in the same liquid container.

In the present invention (as recited in claims 1 and 52), "the liquid" (such as a reactive dye ink) and "the second liquid" (such as a disperse dye ink) are in the **same liquid container.**"\ The present invention requires the liquid and the second liquid to be in the same container. On the other hand, in Miura, the reactive dye ink and the disperse dye ink are not in the same container. Therefore, Miura et al. doesn't suggest the features of the present invention.

Likewise, Numata does not suggest the above discussed features of the present invention. A skilled artisan would not have been able to make the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 52 from the combined teachings of Miura and Numata.

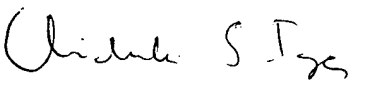
If the Examiner determines otherwise, he is requested to clearly point out where in the combined teachings of Miura and Numata it is suggested that the liquid and the second liquid are in the same container.

Claims 2-8 and 12-16 are dependant on claim 1 and therefore should be allowed at least for the same reasons.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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